

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 24-28 are pending in this Application.

Claims 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onuma Takashi (JP 02-131226) in view of Kohno (U.S. Patent No. 5,029,991) and Walsh (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,253).

With this response, claims 24-26 are amended, claim 29 is added, and claim 27 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects independent claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onuma Takashi in view of Kohno and Walsh. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

With respect to Onuma Takashi, Applicants note that in Fig. 2 of the reference the calculation processing circuit 3 has both camera interface functionality and lens operation functionality. Hence, if when the lens device is combined with a camera the connector of the lens device is different from that of the camera, circuitry which provides camera interface functionality cannot be detached independently. Furthermore, in Onuma Takashi communication between the part of circuit 3 providing camera interface functionality the part of circuit 3 providing lens operation functionality is parallel communication using analog signals.

With respect to Kohno Applicants note that, as indicated for example at column 3 lines 33-61, column 4 line 66 - column 5 line 10, and column 5 lines 38-44 of the reference, first

printed circuit board 80 and the second circuit board 90 are not separated on the basis of the functions thereof. Accordingly, Kohno fails, for instance, to disclose, teach, or suggest functionality wherein a board providing a first functionality can be detached from a board providing a second functionality. Furthermore, in Kohno communication between the two printed circuit boards is parallel communication using analog signals.

Turning to Walsh, Applicants note that the reference fails, for instance, to disclose, teach, or suggest serial communication between two circuit boards each of which has function different from one another and is arranged independent from one another.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 25, at least as amended herewith, is in condition for allowance. Claim 28 which depends therefrom is thought to be allowable for at least the same reasons.

III. Addition of Claim 29

With this response, Applicants add claim 29.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim, as well as claims 24 and 26 which by way of this response depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4527. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

Furthermore, in the event that a further extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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